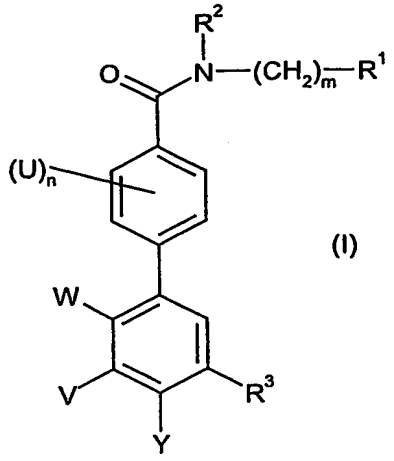
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and $-S(O)_pR^4$, and C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano, $-S(O)_pR^4$, OH, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NCOR^5$, $-COOR^5$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NHSO_2R^5$ and $-NHCONHR^5$,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, or

$(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and N-R^7, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_r-R^8$ or $-NH-CO-R^9$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, heterocyclyl optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, and phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by up to two substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen,

R^6 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^5 and R^6, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring optionally containing up to one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

when r is 0 to 2, R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, $CONHR^5$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, heteroaryl optionally

substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11} and heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, and

when r is 2, R^8 is additionally selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, $NHCOR^5$, $NHCONHR^5$, NR^5R^6 and OH;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_s-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_t$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$ heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13} and $-(CH_2)_t$fused bicyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13};

R^{10} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-CONR^6R^{14}$, $-NHCOR^{14}$, $-SO_2NHR^{14}$, $-NHSO_2R^{14}$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heterocyclyl or $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heteroaryl wherein the heterocyclyl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{11} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen, or

when R^{10} and R^{11} are ortho substituents, then together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, R^{10} and R^{11} may form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{10} and R^{11} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{12} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_s-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NHCOR^{16}$, $-SO_2NHR^{15}$, $-NHSO_2R^{16}$, halogen, $-(CH_2)_kNR^{17}R^{18}$, oxy, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups and heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and $-NR^{17}R^{18}$, or

R^{12} and R^{13}, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{12} and R^{13} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{14} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{15} and R^{16}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and $N-R^7$, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_s-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{17} and R^{18}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a three- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional

heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^7, wherein the ring may contain up to one double bond and the ring is optionally substituted by one or more R^{19} groups;

R^{19} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, oxy, -CH_2OC_{1-6}alkyl, trichloromethyl and -$N(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$;

X is selected from -O- and a bond;

U is selected from methyl and halogen;

W is selected from methyl and chlorine;

V and Y are each selected independently from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain is optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl, wherein the C_{1-6}alkyl group is optionally substituted by up to three OH groups;

n, p, r and j are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

q and k are independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and

s and t are independently selected from 0 and 1;

with the proviso that when R^1 is unsubstituted C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, m is not selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_{2-6}alkyl substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and -$S(O)_tR^4$, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from OH and cyano.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

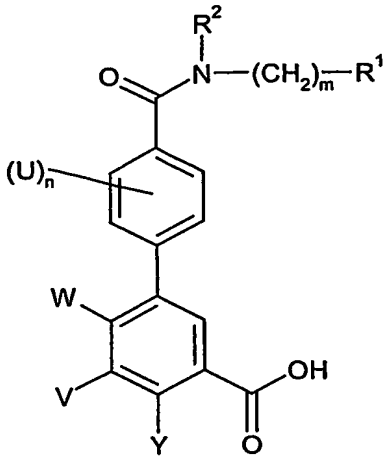
4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^8 is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein m is selected from 0 and 1 and wherein the carbon chain is optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups which are optionally substituted by OH.

6. A compound according to claim 1 as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. A process for preparing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (XXII)



(XXII)

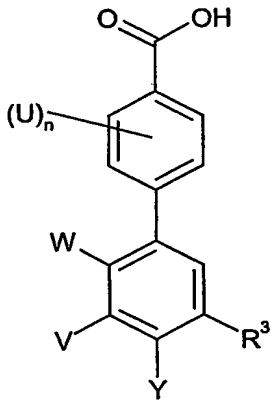
wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXIII)

$$R^8\text{-}(CH_2)_r\text{-}NH_2$$

(XXIII)

wherein R^8 and r are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXII) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXIII));

(b) reacting a compound of formula (XXIV)



(XXIV)

wherein R^3, U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV)

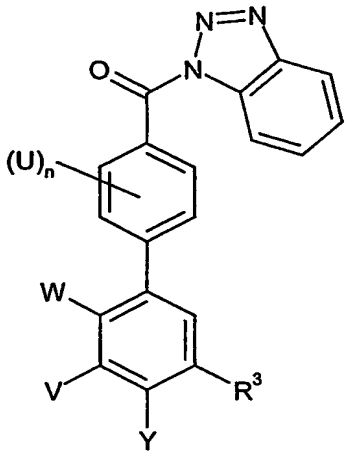
$$R^1(CH_2)_mNR^2H$$

(XXV)

wherein R^1, R^2, m and n are as defined in claim 1,

under amide forming conditions;

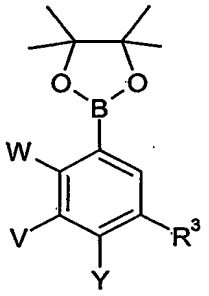
(c) reacting a compound of formula (XXVI)



(XXVI)

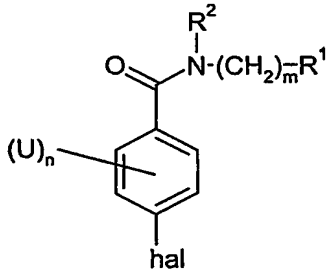
wherein R^3, U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (XXV) as defined above;

(d) reacting a compound of formula (XXVII)



(XXVII)

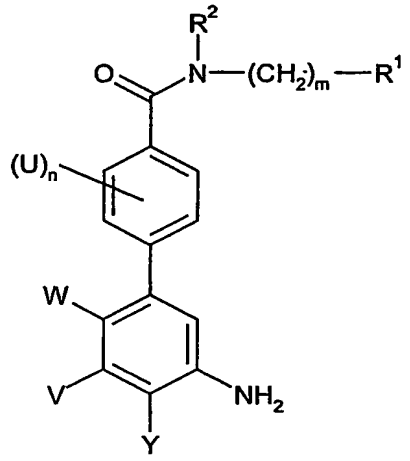
wherein W, V, Y and R^3 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (XXVIII)



(XXVIII)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, m and n are as defined above and hal is halogen, in the presence of a catalyst; or

(e) reacting a compound of formula (XXIX)



(XXIX)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXX)

$$R^9CO_2H$$

(XXX)

wherein R^9 is as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXX) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXIX)).

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

9. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in therapy.

11. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.